

CRAIG'S BUILDING (Craig's Restaurant)
221 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh
Wake County
North Carolina

HABS NO. NC-323

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Department of the Interior
Southeast Region
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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NC,
92-RAI
12-HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Narrative Description of:

CRAIG'S BUILDING

221 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina
Building #13; Moore Square Historic District

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3515 Glenwood Avenue
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For: CITY OF RALEIGH
110 South McDowell Street
Post Office Box 590
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Date: August 27, 1985

Overview:

The Craig's Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings as a contributing structure within the Moore Square Historic District.

The two-story building was constructed prior to 1884, the earliest occupancy date documented, and has accommodated a number of restaurants and a variety of other mercantile tenants. The first floor was occupied until mid-1985; while the second floor has been largely vacant since the late 1950's.

The Craig's Building is scheduled for partial demolition and restoration under plans by the City of Raleigh to revitalize the downtown area. A key element of this revitalization is the alterations to the first floor for use as a pedestrian walkway to the proposed Downtown Bus Transit Mall located in the interior of the block.

Building Chronology: (1884 - Present)

The following is a partial chronology of building occupancy and use based on information compiled from the Hill's Raleigh, Wake County Directory¹, Maloney's Directory², and Sanborn Insurance Maps³.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF OCCUPANCY</u>
1884-1899	Initial occupancy as a grocery in the area of the City Market
1899-1905	Barbee & Hood (restaurant, 1st floor); Green & Matthews (barbers, 2nd floor)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF OCCUPANCY (continued)</u>
1905-1906	Julia Woods (restaurant, 1st floor); Watson & Co. (Barbers, 2nd floor).
1911-1918	Busy Bee Cafe
1919-1952	B & B Cafe; (2nd floor tenant varies)
1953-1957	Robin's Shoe Store
1958-1959	Capital Appliance Co.
1960	The Shoe Box
1961	Vacant
1962-1967	Triangle Specialty Co., Appliances & Furniture
1968	Vacant
1969-1975	Snipes Sandwich Shop
1976	Vacant
1977-1985	Craig's Restaurant
Present	Temporary occupancy by construction office for new high rise building under construction directly across Wilmington Street.

Architectural Characteristics

The Craig's Building is a two-story, single bay brick structure containing approximately 3,000 square feet in area. The structure consists of load bearing masonry party walls, clear span wood floor joists and roof framing. The ground floor is raised above as a shallow crawl space.

The Wilmington Street facade displays a simple Italianate character, in a style popular for commercial buildings around the turn of the century. Ornamentation includes arched window heads, projecting sills, corbelled parapets, and metal cornices and downspouts.

The interior finishes consist of vinyl tile floors on the ground floor and exposed pine floors on the second story, with wood stud and plaster partition walls, plastered brick bearing walls, and plaster ceilings. Many interior doors have operable transoms.

Proposed Future Use

City plans for development of the Moore Square West Transit Block call for alterations to the first floor of the Craig's Building to accomodate a pedestrian walk for entry to the transit facility located in the center of the block. These plans include stabilization and renovation of the 1560 square feet of the second floor for use as office space, and rehabilitation of the two facades.

Resources

¹Hill's Raleigh Wake County Directory, 1899 - Present

²Maloney's City Directory, 1899 - Present

³Sanborn Maps, 1884 - 1914